of Gorkhali language in lieu of Nepal in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Criteria for inclusion of roads into National Highways

1387. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1522 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd May, 1990 and state the criteria adopted for making the provisions for the constructions and up-keeps of National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): The improvement/development of the National Highways is a continuous process and is dependent upon a number of factors such as existing condition of the National Highways, inter-se priority of the work, intensity of traffic and availability of funds for the purpose, etc.

As regards norms fixed for the maintenance/upkeep of the National Highways, these are *inter-alia* based on the requirements of material and labour, width and type of road surface, traffic intensity, physical and climatic conditions, besides tde funds availability, etc.

Criterion for citizenship

1388 SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the language spoken by a person is related with the criterion of right of citizenship of India; and

(b) if not, what is the criteria for a person to be qualified for citizenship of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) No, Sir, except in case of grant of citizenship by nationalisation under Section 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

(b) A person can be Indian national by birth, by descent by registration or by naturalisation under the provisions of the Citizenship Act. 1955 and the rules framed thereunder.

Applications pending for freedom fighters pension in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

1389. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for freedom fighter's pension pending in respect of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, district-wise:

(b) the names of freedom fighters of the above two States whose applications are pending;

(c) by when those cases are likely to be cleared: and

(d) the number of applications for freedom fighters pension from the above two States decided favourably/rejected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) No application for Freedom Fighters' pension from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu which was received before the prescribed last date i.e. 31.3.1982 is pending. No separate record of receipt and disposal of applications, person-wise and District-wise, received after 31.3.1982 is being maintained. In respect of delayed applications (i.e.

received after 31.3.1982) if sufficient grounds for condonation of delay exist they are disposed off on merits in consultation with the State Government.

(d) (i) Number of cases decided favourably i.e. sanctioned upto 30.6.1991:

Andhra Pradesh	—	10,148.
Tamil Nadu	—	3,985.

(This does not include Ex-I.N.A. Cases)

(ii) Number of cases rejected: No separate record is maintained for rejected cases.

Grievances of Assam Rifles

1390. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 2424 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th August, 1990 and state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to redress the grievances of Jawans of Assam Rifles;

(b) whether it is a fact that 9000 jawans had approached the Guwahati High Court by way of a Writ Petition in view of Administration's refusal to settle the demands pertaining to implementation of fourth CPC's recommendations;

(c) whether the Jawans' action of going to Court was construed as an act of indiscipline and a number of Jawans were punished by various means including dismissals; and

(d) whether their cases would be reviewed on humanitarian grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) The various grievances of the Assam Rifles personnel related to parity of Assam Rifles with other Central Police Organisations in matters of pay and allowances, service conditions, rank structure and appointments. The Assam Rifles personnel have already been granted the parity in pay and allowances as applicable in the case of other Central Police Organisations. It has not been possible to accept the other demands of the Assam Rifles personnel, in view of the necessity for army supervision and control in matters of operations in the North-Eastern region under the prevailing conditions in that region.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. The guilty jawans were given punishments by the competent authorities for their active participation in the agitation which has been construed as an act of gross indiscipline in a uniformed force like the Assam Rifles. Besides these jawans have filed writ petitions in various courts of law challenging the punishments awarded to them by their disciplinary authorities. Thus the matter is now *sub judice*.

Atrocities against women

1391. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of atrocities against women, during the last five years till May, 1991 State-wise;

(b) the details of molestation, rape and dowry deaths during the last five years, State-wise;

(c) the action taken against perpetrators of crimes against women, State-wise; and

(d) the number of cases of acquittal of persons involved in crimes against women, State-wise, during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a)